30th October 1931]

Police

Withdrawal by the District Magistrate, Coimbatore, of all criminal cases against the caste people of Singanallur.

* 232 *Q.*—Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that the District Magistrate of Coimbatore has ordered the withdrawal of all criminal cases against the caste people who rioted and assaulted the Adi-Dravidas in Singanallur in July 1930;

(*b*) what are the reasons that prompted him to adopt such a course;

(*c*) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of this House the reports that were received by the Government from the District Magistrate from July last in this connexion; and

(*d*) why the criminal cases were withdrawn after nine months of such assaults?

A.—(*a*) The District Magistrate has ordered the withdrawal of the criminal cases against both caste-Hindus and Adi-Dravidas.

(*b*) & (*d*) The cases were exacerbating feeling rather than allaying it and were withdrawn in the interests of both parties, who were agreeable to a compromise, and in the hope of promoting a lasting settlement between them.

The cases were not disposed of earlier owing to petitions being presented first by the accused in one case for the withdrawal of the cases (which could not, however, then be accepted because the request for withdrawal did not come from both sides) and later for the transfer of the cases under section 526 (8), Criminal Procedure Code.

(*c*) The Government consider this to be unnecessary.

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" In answer to clause (*d*), it is stated that they were agreeable to a compromise. May I know whether there is anything in writing from the Adi-Dravidas asking for a compromise ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—" I do not think it is necessary that it should be in writing. "

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" May I know from the hon. the Home Member whether before now the District Magistrate attempted to bring about a compromise between the parties ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—" The Government have got the information that a compromise has been effected. "

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" May I know the terms of the compromise ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—" Notice, Sir. "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" Has a lasting settlement been arrived at ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— " That is my information, Sir. "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" Has the Government been informed that a settlement has been arrived at in regard to the difficulties that arose in the matter ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— " That is my information. "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" Is the hon. Member aware that the compensation that was promised to the Adi-Dravidas has not been paid ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— " I am not aware of it. "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" Is it not a fact that there are some cases pending in the civil courts against the Adi-Dravidas ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— " The Government are not aware of it. "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" Why will not the Government make enquiries when the matter is brought to their notice that a settlement is not yet effected ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— " Because there was an end of the trouble. If the hon. Member thinks otherwise and wants more facts, I shall be prepared to enquire. "

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" With reference to the answer to clause (*c*), may I know from the Government what makes them say that it is unnecessary to proceed with the cases ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— " Because they have been settled by a compromise. "

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" May I inform the hon. the Home Member that there was no compromise so far as Adi-Dravidas were concerned ? "

Alleged Hindu-Muslim clash in Vellore in July 1931.

* 233 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that there was a clash between the Hindu processionists and the Muhammadan processionists on the evening of Tuesday, the 28th July 1931 at Vellore;

(*b*) what was the cause of the trouble and how did it develop;

(*c*) whether the scene of action was very near the police station;